5. The Agreement provides the roadmap for negotiating a Free Trade Area Agreement with the ASEAN. An ASEAN-India Trade Negotiating Committee shall be established to carry out the programme of negotiations. This would give further impetus to India-ASEAN linkage in trade, services and other areas of economic cooperation, and would facilitate a closer economic partnership between India and ASEAN in the 21st century.

6. The leaders of India and the ASEAN countries issued a *Joint Declaration on* Cooperation in Combating Internation Terrorism that envisages in : (i) exchange of information, (ii) legal and enforcement matters, (iii) institutional capacity augmnetation, and (iv) training. Relevant Agencies on the two sides would be taking further steps to put this cooperation programme into action.

7. India acceded to the *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia,* that signifies India's commitment to work with the ASEAN countries in maintaining regional peace and stability. As a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum, India is actively involved in peace and security related issues in the region.

8. With a view to ensuring better connectivity in order that India and ASEAN could reap full benefits from their geographical proximity, the Prime Minister of India, in his talks with the ASEAN leaders, offered the designated Airlines of each ASEAN country the facility of daily services to New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, as well as an unlimited number of flights to connect another 18 tourist destinations in India. The Prime Minister also stressed the need to improved road and rail connectivity between India and the ASEAN countries. He drew special attention to the proposed trilateral highway project between India. Myanmar and Thailand, and the proposed rail link from India to Vietnam.

Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project

*60. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atleast eleven of the 31 States, through which Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project passes, have not met their obligation for timely land acquisition;

(b) if so, whether Centre have stopped financial assistance to seven States for road construction and maintenance as they had not been adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles and were raising revenue by permitting overloading in their territories;

(c) whether Prime Minister has written to Chief Ministers of these States to expedite land acquisition; and

(d) if so, the present position of this project?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) These pertain to the National Highway Development Project (NHDP). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Part (b) of the Question relates to overloading of vehicles.

Certain types of passes issued by some State Governments facilitate overloading by trucks. After numberous complaints were received against seven States regarding overloading, release of certain funds for these States were stopped for curbing this practice as this damages roads and reduces their prescribed lives. Four States have now withdrawn these passes and funds are therefore being released to them.

Statement

The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) component of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) passes through 13 States. There have been considerable delays in Land Acquisiton in some States. After persistent follow-up action by us, through the State Governments as of now, except for few States, such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, most of the additional land (about 83%) has already been acquired for construction of Golden Quardrilateral.

The Prime Minister had written to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to expedite the land acquisition.

The status of Golden Quardilateral as on 31-10-2003 is as under:

Total Length	:	5846 km.
Completed	:	1490 km.
Under Implementation	:	4273 km.
Balance for award	:	83 km.